



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3701

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## **CONGRESSMAN DAVID WU URGES INCREASE IN NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FUNDING**

### ***NSF Funding crucial to Oregon science, math efforts***

Washington, DC—Congressman David Wu today sent a letter to the president urging his support for a 15 percent increase in funding for the National Science Foundation. More than 100 members of Congress support the increase and signed the letter (see attached).

"America is facing a shortage of students in science, math and engineering and a shortage of workers in those fields," said Congressman Wu. "In Oregon, NSF-supported efforts like Saturday Academy and AWSEM encourage and develop math and science skills in young students. This letter demonstrates the commitment of my colleagues in congress to education and research and to economic investment."

Allan Bromley, a professor of nuclear physics at Yale and former science and technology advisor to President George H. W. Bush, wrote in an op-ed for the New York Times (NYT, 3/9/01): "Technological innovation depends upon the steady flow of discoveries and trained workers generated by federal science investments in universities and national laboratories. These discoveries feed directly into the industries that drive the economy. It's a straight-forward relationship: industry is attentive to immediate market pressures, and the federal government makes the investments that ensure long-term competitiveness."

"The proposed cuts [in the president's budget outline] to scientific research are a self-defeating policy. Congress must increase the federal investment in science. No science, no surplus. It's that simple."

Congressman Wu is a member of the Science Committee and the Education Committee.

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*Text of the letter and a list of co-signers follows.*

March 28, 2001

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your final budget request for Fiscal Year 2002, we urge you to give high priority to increasing the National Science Foundation's (NSF) funding by at least 15 percent. We were disappointed that your budget outline to Congress included only a 1 percent increase for the NSF.

America's current shortage of students in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering is two-fold. While the country's weaknesses in these fields are at the primary and secondary school levels, America continues to lose a great opportunity to improve the skills of many college undergraduates without the sufficient background to undertake science, mathematics or engineering majors.

It is clear that NSF provides the basic knowledge that leads to the innovation that rejuvenates our economy. Furthermore, university research trains new generations of scientists and engineers. Mr. President, it is important to realize that if funding shortages occur, schools will be required to limit their admissions to graduate programs.

Due to a lack of funding, NSF currently funds less than a third of its applicants and about half of its quality applicants. Though an applicant may receive a NSF award, it is usually financially sub-optimal. The current situation leaves researchers in NSF funded fields scrambling for funds and spending too much of their time chasing limited funding rather than in the laboratory or mentoring students.

Again, we request that you give high priority to increasing the NSF's funding by at least 15 percent in your upcoming budget. Funding NSF contributes to the development in the high tech sector. Growth and development in the high-tech sector benefits the economy and continued economic growth benefits all Americans.

Sincerely,

David Wu

Also signed by 105 additional members of Congress including:

Representatives Abercrombie, Allen, Baca, Baird, Baldacci, Baldwin, Barcia, Barrett, Berman, Blagojevich, Blumenauer, Bonior, Boucher, Boyd, Brady, Capps, Capuano, Carson, Costello, Crowley, Cummings, Davis, Davis, DeFazio, DeGette, Delahunt, Deutsch, Doggett, Dooley, Doyle, Etheridge, Farr, Frank, Frost, Gephardt, Gonzalez, Gordon, Guitierrez, Hall, Hastings, Hill, Hoeffel, Holden, Holt, Honda, Hooley, Inslee, Israel, Jackson-Lee, Jefferson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Kaptur, Kildee, Kind, Lampson, Larsen, Larson, Lofgren, Lucas, Markey, Matheson, Carolyn McCarthy, Karen McCarthy, McCollum, McGovern, McIntyre, McKinney, McNulty, Meeks, Menendez, Millender-McDonald, George Miller, Mink, Moore, Moran, Nadler, Napolitano, Ortiz, Owens, Pascrell, Pastor, Payne, Reyes, Rivers, Rodriguez, Ross, Sanders, Sandlin, Schiff, Scott, Shows, Slaughter, Snyder, Solis, Stupak, Thompson, Tierney, Towns, Tubbs Jones, Mark Udall, Tom Udall, Watt, Waxman, Weiner, Woolsey

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